

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 13-22 are pending in the application. Claims 5-12 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 13, 17, and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found in the application as filed. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office has rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19, as amended, complies with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,127,049 (“Godse”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,647,390 (“Ji”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,282,660 (“Anne”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,162 (“Ortega”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Ortega, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Ortega fail to disclose or suggest detecting, at a digital subscriber line (DSL) modem coupled to a local network, a presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL modem via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL modem wherein in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL modem, as in claim 1.

Godse describes a system that enhances automation of activating network service between a customer modem and a central office modem over a digital subscriber line (DSL) link.

See Godse, Abstract. In Godse, the central office modem couples the customer modem to a network for providing the network service. See Godse, Abstract. In Godse, the system comprises a polling system coupled with the central office modems. See Godse, Abstract. In Godse, the polling system polls inactive central office modems in order to detect the presence of an associated customer modem. See Godse, Abstract. Thus, in Godse, the central office modems are polled to detect the presence of an associated customer modem, i.e. the detection occurs at the central office rather than at a local network. Therefore, the cited portions of Godse fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1.

Ji describes an automatic Internet access method using a digital subscriber line. See Ji, Abstract. In Ji, upon receiving an automatic Internet access program install request from a user, a point-to-point protocol over Ethernet (PPPoE) device driver including a PPPoE adapter and a network driver interface specification wide area network (NDISWAN) miniport driver, and an asynchronous digital subscriber line (ADSL) monitoring tool which is an application program for informing the user whether ADSL is connected, is installed in a user personal computer (PC). See Ji, Abstract. Thus, Ji describes installing a PPPoE device driver and an ADSL monitoring tool upon receiving an automatic Internet access program install request from a user. The cited portions of Ji fail to disclose or suggest detecting, at a DSL modem coupled to a local network, a presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL modem via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL modem wherein in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL modem, as in claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Ji fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1.

Anne describes standardizing a computer's representation and handling of dial-up and network applications. See Anne, Abstract. In Anne, a local area network (LAN) connection is established on a session basis only when required, enabling a user or system administrator to have the same control over the LAN connection as is typically exercised over a wide area network (WAN) connection. See Anne, Abstract. In Anne, examples of WAN connection features that are available to the LAN connection are the maintenance of billing information, access control, authentication and verification. See Anne, Abstract. Thus, Anne describes

enabling a user or system administrator to have control over a LAN connection. The cited portions of Anne fail to disclose or suggest detecting, at a DSL modem coupled to a local network, a presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL modem via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL modem wherein in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL modem, as in claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Anne fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1.

Ortega describes a device, such as an ADSL modem, that acts as a proxy for service endpoints in a data network by responding to service endpoint advertisement messages pursuant to Point to Point Protocol (PPP) over Ethernet (PPPoE), where the terminating equipment located at those service endpoints do not support PPPoE services. See Ortega, Abstract. In Ortega, the device also supports route selection and transparent protocol conversion of network protocols so that a host computer connected to the device can communicate with the service endpoints where the service endpoints do not support the host computer's network protocols. See Ortega, Abstract. Thus, Ortega describes a device that acts as a proxy for service endpoints in a data network when the terminating equipment at the service endpoints does not support PPPoE services. The cited portions of Ortega fail to disclose or suggest detecting, at a DSL modem coupled to a local network, a presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL modem via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL modem wherein in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL modem, as in claim 1. Thus, the cited portions of Ortega fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Therefore, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Ortega, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-4 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 2-4, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Godse in view of Ji, Anne, and Ortega, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,032,012 (“Roh” –the Office refers to this reference as “Roth”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. As explained above, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Ortega, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 1. The cited portions of Roh fail to disclose or suggest those elements of claim 1 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Ortega. For example, the cited portions of Roh fail to disclose or suggest detecting, at a DSL modem coupled to a local network, a presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL modem via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL modem wherein in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL modem, as in claim 1.

Roh describes a PPPoA (point-to-point (PPP) over asynchronous transfer mode (ATM)) spoofing function utilizing an asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) modem to form a single network between a client PC and a network access server (NAS) by allowing the ADSL modem to make a PPP connection to the NAS when the client PC is booted, by allowing the NAS to transmit Internet protocol (IP) configuration information, including a global IP address, to a DHCP server of the ADSL modem through a PPP Internet Protocol control protocol (IPCP), and by allowing the ADSL to transfer the IP configuration information received from the NAS to the client PC, thereby forming a bridge by the ADSL modem between the client PC and the NAS to enable IP packets to be transferred between the client PC and the NAS. See Roh, Abstract. Thus, Roh describes a PPPoA spoofing function utilizing an ADSL modem to form a single network between a client PC and a NAS. The cited portions of Roh fail to disclose or suggest detecting, at a DSL modem coupled to a local network, a presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL modem via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL

modem wherein in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL modem, as in claim 1, from which claims 2-4 depend. Hence, claims 2-4 are allowable.

Claims 13-14, 16 and 19-21 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 13-14, 16 and 19-21, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Godse in view of Ji, and Anne, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,059 (“Starr”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 13-14 and 16

The cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 13. For example, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr fail to disclose or suggest a digital subscriber line (DSL) router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via a local network, where the local network includes at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 13.

As explained above, in Godse, the central office modems are polled to detect the presence of an associated customer modem, i.e. the detection occurs at the central office rather than at a local network. The cited portions of Godse fail to disclose or suggest a digital subscriber line (DSL) router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via a local network, where the local network includes at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 13. Therefore, the cited portions of Godse fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 13.

As explained above, Ji describes installing a PPPoE device driver and an ADSL monitoring tool upon receiving an automatic Internet access program install request from a user. The cited portions of Ji fail to disclose or suggest a digital subscriber line (DSL) router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via a local network, where the local network includes at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 13. Therefore, the cited portions of Ji fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 13.

As explained above, Anne describes enabling a user or system administrator to have control over a LAN connection. The cited portions of Anne fail to disclose or suggest a digital subscriber line (DSL) router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via a local network, where the local network includes at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 13. Therefore, the cited portions of Anne fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 13.

Starr describes an apparatus for filtering radio frequency interference in a signal transmitted on a twisted-pair communication channel such as an ADSL transmission line. See Starr, Abstract. In Starr, the apparatus includes a filter adapted to be selectively engaged in-line with the communication channel by a switch or switches when the differential mode noise in any predetermined frequency sub-band exceeds a threshold noise level, or the sum of the sub-band noise signals exceeds a wideband threshold noise value. See Starr, Abstract. In Starr, noise detection circuitry is used to determine radio frequency interference. See Starr, col. 3, lines 51-55 and col. 4 lines 35-43. Thus, Starr describes noise detection circuitry rather than connection detection logic. Therefore, the cited portions of Starr fail to disclose at least one element of claim 13. The cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr, individually or in combination, do

not disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 13. Hence, claim 13 is allowable. Claims 14 and 16 are allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 19-21

The cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr, individually or in combination, do not disclose the specific combination of claim 19. For example, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr fail to disclose a network capable device detection module in a housing of a DSL router coupled to a local network, wherein the network capable device detection module is configured to determine whether a powered-on network capable device is connected to the DSL router via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 19.

As explained above, in Godse, the central office modems are polled to detect the presence of an associated customer modem, i.e. the detection occurs at the central office rather than at a local network. The cited portions of Godse fail to disclose or suggest a network capable device detection module in a housing of a DSL router coupled to a local network, wherein the network capable device detection module is configured to determine whether a powered-on network capable device is connected to the DSL router via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 19. Therefore, the cited portions of Godse fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19.

As explained above, Ji describes installing a PPPoE device driver and an ADSL monitoring tool upon receiving an automatic Internet access program install request from a user. The cited portions of Ji fail to disclose or suggest a network capable device detection module in a housing of a DSL router coupled to a local network, wherein the network capable device detection module is configured to determine whether a powered-on network capable device is

connected to the DSL router via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 19. Therefore, the cited portions of Ji fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19.

As explained above, Anne describes enabling a user or system administrator to have control over a LAN connection. The cited portions of Anne fail to disclose or suggest a network capable device detection module in a housing of a DSL router coupled to a local network, wherein the network capable device detection module is configured to determine whether a powered-on network capable device is connected to the DSL router via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 19. Therefore, the cited portions of Anne fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19.

Starr describes an apparatus for filtering radio frequency interference in a signal transmitted on a twisted-pair communication channel such as an ADSL transmission line. See Starr, Abstract. In Starr, the apparatus includes a filter adapted to be selectively engaged in-line with the communication channel by a switch or switches when the differential mode noise in any predetermined frequency sub-band exceeds a threshold noise level, or the sum of the sub-band noise signals exceeds a wideband threshold noise value. See Starr, Abstract. In Starr, noise detection circuitry is used to determine radio frequency interference. See Starr, col. 3, lines 51-55 and col. 4 lines 35-43. Thus, Starr describes noise detection circuitry rather than connection detection logic. Therefore, the cited portions of Starr fail to disclose at least one element of claim 19. The cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19. Hence, claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20 and 21 are allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 15 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 15, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Godse in view of Ji, Anne, and Starr and further in view of Ortega. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 15 depends from claim 13. As explained above, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr, individually or in combination, do not disclose the specific combination of claim 13. The cited portions of Ortega fail to disclose or suggest those elements of claim 13 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr. For example, the cited portions of Ortega fail to disclose a digital subscriber line (DSL) router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via a local network, where the local network includes at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 13.

As explained above, Ortega describes a device that acts as a proxy for service endpoints in a data network when the terminating equipment at the service endpoints does not support PPPoE services. The cited portions of Ortega fail to disclose or suggest a digital subscriber line (DSL) router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via a local network, where the local network includes at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 13, from which claim 15 depends. Hence, claim 15 is allowable.

Claims 17-18 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 17-18, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Roh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,505 (“Wang”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The cited portions of Roh and Wang, individually or in combination, do not disclose the specific combination of claim 17. For example, the cited portions Roh and Wang fail to disclose a DSL router coupled to a local network, the DSL router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via the local network, as in claim 17.

As explained above, Roh describes a PPPoA spoofing function utilizing an ADSL modem to form a single network between a client PC and a NAS. The cited portions of Roh fail to disclose a DSL router coupled to a local network, the DSL router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via the local network, as in claim 17.

Wang describes a method for automatically provisioning a broadband communication service to a subscriber having a broadband modem. In Wang, the method includes the step of transmitting a service request from the broadband modem to a central office, which is associated with a network service provider. In Wang, the network is configured for service in response to the service request. In Wang, the method further includes automatically configuring the broadband modem by transmitting a configuration signal from the central office to the subscriber. Thus, Wang describes automatically provisioning a broadband communication service to a subscriber having a broadband modem. The cited portions of Wang fail to disclose a DSL router coupled to a local network, the DSL router including connection detection logic to detect the presence of a powered-on network capable device that is connected to the DSL router via the local network, as in claim 17. Therefore, the cited portions of Roh and Wang fail to disclose at least one element of claim 17. Hence, claim 17 is allowable. Claim 18 is allowable, at least by virtue of depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 22 is Allowable

The Office has rejected claim 22, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Godse, in view of Ji, Anne, and Starr and further in view of Roh. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 22 depends from claim 19. As explained above, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr, individually or in combination, fail to disclose at least one element of claim 19. The cited portions of Roh fail to disclose or suggest those portions of claim 19 not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, and Starr. For example, the cited portions of Roh fail to disclose or suggest a network capable device detection module in a housing of a DSL router coupled to a local network, wherein the network capable device detection module is configured to determine whether a powered-on network capable device is connected to the DSL router via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 19.

As explained above, Roh describes a PPPoA spoofing function utilizing an ADSL modem to form a single network between a client PC and a NAS. The cited portions of Roh fail to disclose or suggest a network capable device detection module in a housing of a DSL router coupled to a local network, wherein the network capable device detection module is configured to determine whether a powered-on network capable device is connected to the DSL router via the local network, the local network including at least one network capable device that contains a graphical activation display icon to illustrate a connection status of the powered-on network capable device with respect to the DSL router and, in response to receiving a user command, the graphical activation display icon selectively connects the powered-on network capable device to the DSL router, as in claim 19. Therefore, the cited portions of Godse, Ji, Anne, Starr, and Roh, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of claim 19, from which claim 22 depends. Hence, claim 22 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants has pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references as applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

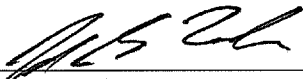
Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited references, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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